

AP Human Geography

Chapter 6

Language

1. How do the French try to maintain the purity of their language?
2. Why is language such an integral part of culture?
3. Analyze the pie charts (fig 6.3) on page 157. How can one infer from the data that many Chinese are learning English?
4. Explain language's connection to identity.
5. What is mutual intelligibility? Why have linguists (the people that study language) rejected this idea?
6. Describe the geography of the main dialects of English in the United States.
7. Describe the importance of cognates to linguists.
8. Describe the impact that isolation has on a language.
9. What impact does interaction have on a language?
10. Which language families are dispersed versus those that are clustered? What factors contributed to the wide distribution of the Indo-European language family?
11. Describe the two competing theories for the initial diffusion of early Indo-European tongues.
12. Describe the linguistic map of Europe with respect to language families, language branches, language groups, and languages.
13. What accounts for the extreme language fragmentation of sub-Saharan Africa? Describe why Nigeria is the prime example for language diversity within the region. What implications does the linguistic diversity in Nigeria pose?
14. What is the difference between lingua franca, pidgin language, and a creole language?
15. Why is English becoming the world's lingua franca?
16. Outline the advantages and disadvantages of a monolingual versus a multilingual state.
17. Do you think that English will remain the world's leading lingua franca over the next hundred years? Explain your reasoning.
18. What is a toponym, and what cultural message do the toponyms in your area convey?